

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 09260 030341Z

14

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

----- 097057

O 021122Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7502

S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 9260

STADIS//////////

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON FROM CONSTABLE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PK, PFOR, US

SUBJECT: REPROCESSING PLANT

1. IN THE ABSENCE OF THE AMBASSADOR, WHO IS ON LEAVE, I WAS CALLED TO FOREIGN MINISTRY TODAY TO SEE ACTING FOREIGN SECRETARY SHAHNAWAZ. HE SAID HE HAD DIRECT INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO PASS A MESSAGE TO THE AMBASSADOR AND, SINCE THE AMBASSADOR WAS NOT AVAILABLE, HE HAD ASKED TO SEE ME.

2. SHAHNAWAZ SAID THAT WHEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE SECRETARY DISCUSSED THE REPROCESSING ISSUE IN LAHORE, THEY BOTH AGREED THEY SHOULD ATTEMPT TO SEE THAT THIS MATTER RECEIVED AS LITTLE PUBLICITY AS POSSIBLE IN THE WEEKS AHEAD. SINCE THE SECRETARY LEFT, HOWEVER, THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE COVERAGE OF THE REPROCESSING ISSUE NOT ONLY IN THE AMERICAN MEDIA BUT IN OTHER COUNTRIES AS WELL, ALTHOUGH PAKISTAN HAD DONE WHAT IT COULD TO CONTAIN MEDIA REACTION HERE. THE PRIME MINISTER NOW UNDERSTANDS THAT AN ARTICLE ON REPROCESSING, WRITTEN BY ACDA DIRECTOR IKLE, WILL APPEAR IN A FRENCH MAGAZINE (HE WAS NOT SURE WHICH ONE) EITHER THIS WEEKEND OR EARLY NEXT WEEK. ACCORDING TO SHAHNAWAZ, IKLE MAKES THE SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 ISLAMA 09260 030341Z

FOLLOWING POINTS IN THE ARTICLE: A) THERE IS NO ECONOMIC

JUSTIFICATION FOR PAKISTAN TO ACQUIRE A REPROCESSING PLANT. B) THE US SUCCEEDED WITH SOUTH KOREA IN CONVINCING IT TO FOREGO THE REPROCESSING PLANT BUY AND WILL CONTINUE TO PRESSURE PAKISTAN TO GIVE UP ITS PURCHASE. C) SOUTH KOREA HAD A GREATER JUSTIFICATION FOR THE PLANT THAN DOES PAKISTAN. D) IRAN'S NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IS RATIONAL AND JUSTIFIED AND, BY IMPLICATION, PAKISTAN'S IS NOT. SHAHNAWAZ SAID THE PRIME MINISTER APPRECIATED THE DIFFICULTIES IN KEEPING OUR PRESS FROM MAKING ADVERSE COMMENTS, BUT HE BELIEVED IT WAS INCONSISTENT WITH THE SECRETARY'S UNDERSTANDING WITH BHUTTO FOR USG OFFICIALS TO HARP ON THE ISSUE PUBLICLY AT THIS DELICATE STAGE. AT THE CLOSE OF THE CONVERSATION I TOLD SHAHNAWAZ I WOULD IMMEDIATELY REPORT THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE TO THE AMBASSADOR AND THE DEPARTMENT.

3. IF THE PAKISTANI REPORT OF THE IKLE ARTICLE IS ACCURATE, I THINK WE SHOULD DO WHAT WE CAN TO HAVE IT WITHDRAWN. AS YOU KNOW, THE PRIME MINISTER IS VERY SENSITIVE ON THE ISSUE OF PUBLICITY OVER THE REPROCESSING PLANT PURCHASE AND IF A HIGH RANKING USG OFFICIAL IS, ON THE PUBLIC RECORD, CRITICAL OF THE BUY, IT WILL ONLY FURTHER EXACERBATE OUR DIFFICULTIES IN REACHING A SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM. I WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE GUIDANCE ON WHAT MESSAGE WE CAN PASS BACK TO SHAHNAWAZ.

BYROADE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS, NUCLEAR FUELS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 SEP 1976
Decapton Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decapton Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greenet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ISLAMA09260
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760334-0571
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760998/aaaadgfb.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS, STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS, STADIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greenet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <15 OCT 2004 by greenet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPROCESSING PLANT
TAGS: PFOR, PARM, PK, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006